



Department of Justice

**United States Attorney Marty J. Jackley
District of South Dakota**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2007
www.usdoj.gov/usao/sd

CONTACT: MARTY J. JACKLEY
PHONE: (605) 330-4400
FAX: (605) 330-4410

FORMER HIGH SCHOOL TEACHER SENTENCED TO 78 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

United States Attorney Marty J. Jackley announced that a Sioux Falls man charged with possession of child pornography was sentenced on March 7, 2007, by United States District Court Judge Lawrence L. Piersol.

Steven Smith, age 54, was sentenced to 78 months imprisonment, followed by 7 years of supervised release, and was ordered to pay a \$5,000 fine. As part of the sentence, Smith must also register as a sex offender upon his release from prison. He pled guilty to the indictment on December 12, 2006.

This investigation was conducted by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of a national investigation known as Project Emissary. The investigation centered around the discovery of an illegal child pornography website that sold subscriptions to access images of child pornography. Records obtained from the computer server for the illegal website provided user names and other identifying information regarding subscribers, including identifying information that led ICE agents to Smith.

A forensic analysis of the computers and discs seized from Smith's two homes revealed over 600 images of child pornography. The images Smith had accumulated showed children ranging in age from toddlers to teenagers. Some of the images also included depictions of

bondage and violence.

When interviewed, Smith confessed to being a subscriber to the illegal child pornography website and admitted that he used his computer to gain access to that website and downloaded images of child pornography. At the time of his arrest, Smith was a high school teacher at Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls.

United States Attorney Marty J. Jackley stated that, "The 78 month sentence reflects the serious nature of the predatory conduct involved in this case. The substantial conditions imposed by the Court for the defendant upon his eventual release from incarceration were tailored to aid in the future protection of the community. I am proud of the federal, state, and local law enforcement's cooperative efforts in the case investigation and Assistant United States Attorney Jeff Clapper's case prosecution."

The investigation was conducted by the United States Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Sioux Falls Police Department, the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office, and the South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, and the case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey C. Clapper.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February, 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales launched Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For mor information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

###